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CHAUFFEUR TAKES TEAMSTER'S JOB

Army Motor Truck Causes Marvelous Transformation in Transportation.

STAND UP UNDER SEVERE TEST

Border Trouble Will Result in Construction of Military Highway 1,000 Miles in Length—Not Waiting for Congress.

Fort Sam Houston, Texas.—No department of the United States army has experienced such a marvelous transformation during the last few months as that which is charged with the duty of providing for the overland transportation of men and supplies. The introduction of the motor truck tells the story.

When Maj. Gen. Frederick Funston issued the order for a punitive expedition under General Pershing to enter Mexico in pursuit of Villa there was a lamentable lack of motor-truck equipment. It was then that the manufacturers of these vehicles showed themselves equal to the occasion. They turned out and shipped to El Paso and Columbus, N. M., enough trucks to meet the immediate and urgent demand. Since then this new branch of the army transportation service has expanded rapidly. During the last few days two special trains carrying 80 motor trucks direct from the factory arrived here and were added to this class of equipment already organized for duty on the Rio Grande border.

Army Teamster Is Passing. The picturesque army teamster is rapidly passing, giving way to chauffeurs and mechanics.

One of the interesting tests to which the army trucks here were subjected was the moving of a regiment of infantry. The trucks were loaded with men and officers and a run of several hours was made through the streets of San Antonio and over the outlying country roads. It was a success in every respect.

Should it be found necessary to maintain the present large force of troops on the border for several months, the construction of a military highway closely bordering the more than 1,000 miles of the river front will have been accomplished. Improvements are already being made to existing roads all through the border region in order to facilitate the movement of army motor trucks. Army engineers have found it necessary to repair and reconstruct parts of the highway that leads from the military supply base at Marathon to Boquillas, 110 miles. Near Marathon are being laid out and constructed through isolated sections of the border. In the region extending from Eagle Pass to Brownsville a fairly good highway follows close to the Rio Grande for a distance of about 550 miles. The bad places in this road are being repaired under the direction of army engineers, and it is expected that it will be in good shape for heavy motor-truck traffic within a short time.

Not Waiting for Congress. The movement, which was inaugurated about two years ago by many communities in the border region for the construction of a federal military highway from the mouth of the Rio Grande to El Paso promises to be brought to successful accomplishment without any direct appropriation by congress. The introduction of the army motor truck makes the building of such a road necessary, and the work is being rapidly done in order to furnish supplies to the patrol camps and to haul troops from place to place along the frontier.

Many of the motor truck chauffeurs and mechanics who have been sent to the wild border region are having the experience of their lives. Most of these young men came here direct from Detroit, Indianapolis and other northern cities, and with hardly an exception they were new to not only military life, but they had no knowledge of this part of the country, and particularly were they ignorant of brush covering territory like that fronting on the Rio Grande. These new arrivals wanted to see a Mexican the first thing, and they usually had their curiosity satisfied before they reached San Antonio, as there are many of these natives of the cactus republic scattered along the railroad for 100 miles north of here.

Many good-natured pranks are played upon these new additions to the army contingent. In the different border camps they are initiated into the rough sports that are common to the ranch region. The wild life of the chaparral, including the rattlesnakes, the tarantulas, the javelinas, the deer, the bobcats and an occasional jaguar, abounds on all sides, and the young men from the North who came down here to drive the motor trucks do not find their long rides through the sparsely inhabited region at all monotonous.

Indiana Eggs for Allies. Brownville, Ind.—Eggs laid by Indiana hens are now being served right on the firing line in northern France. Last week Houghland and Miller of this place shipped \$11,000 worth of eggs and butter to the allied armies. The eggs were all hard boiled before they began their long journey.

HERMITS LIVE IN ANCIENT CABIN

Dwelling Is Fast Crumbling as Result of Powder Mill Blasts.

BUILT OVER A CENTURY AGO

Aged Brothers Born in Shack They Occupy—Civil War Pension Paid to Elder Suffices for Their Meager Wants.

New York.—Two aged hermit brothers, George W. and Louis C. Lark, aged eighty-four and seventy-four respectively, are threatened with the loss of their century-old cabin, in which they have spent practically all their lives. They live in the mountainous region of northern New Jersey, between Kenil and Lake Hopatcong. There are big powder mills at Kenil, and the numerous accidental explosions there have almost wrecked the Lark cabin.

The cabin was built in 1807 by their father, William J. Lark, a farmer. At his death more than sixty years ago he divided equally his seventy acres between them. The brothers did all their own work until fifteen years ago, when, enfeebled by age, they were obliged to employ farm hands. Then the powder mills began to pay higher wages than the Larks could afford, and the farm has since been allowed to grow wild.

The brothers were born in the little old cabin. Louis' only excursion to the outside world was a trip to Pennsylvania on a canal boat in the summer of 1873. Since then he has not been further than a mile from his home. George has traveled a little more extensively. For several summers he was engaged on a canal boat plying from a point near his home to Mauch Chunk, Pa. He served his country for a short time near the close of the Civil war in Company B, Thirtieth New Jersey volunteers, and was wounded in the shoulder in the battle of Petersburg. His pension enables the brothers to get along.

The Old Homestead. There are four rooms on the ground floor of the cabin, the one in front, the largest, being most freely used. Here is the stove, the dining table and an old cot. A room back of this serves as another sleeping quarter. Another front room is used for storing farm utensils, food, wood and unused furniture. In the rear of this is the room where the brothers were born—George on November 20, 1832, and Louis on February 10, 1842. There are three or four frames on the walls which once contained pictures. Stacked in corners are letters, old papers, magazines, etc., the accumulation of a century. One letter, picked up recently by a visitor was addressed to the father in the penmanship of the early days, and bore a faint postmark of some date in 1821. The upstairs part of the cabin is in an unfinished state.

The general room, used for cooking, eating and sleeping, is plastered and has a more habitable look than any of the others. In one corner is a stack of wood, thrown down carelessly alongside an old-fashioned stove, rusted and greased almost beyond recognition. The bedclothing on the little cot and the cloth thrown over the few dishes on the table may have been white once. The chairs are "antiques." The floors are without covering.

George, although older than Louis, is far more spry. Louis is suffering from kidney trouble and is quite feeble.

Louis' "Gold Mine." As a rule George wears no shoes, only socks. Neither has he a hair cut or shave within memory. George does the cooking. Their meals consist of milk from a farm in the vicinity, cereals, crackers, fruits and, occasionally, meat and potatoes. They rise with the sun and retire at nightfall. Should light be needed at night candles are used. Both can read, but it is very seldom that either sees a newspaper or magazine.

Louis is looking forward to the time when he will have recovered sufficiently to explore his "gold mine" in the mountain. He insists that there is one on his property, and says that if his health were good he would soon prove it. He talks of going to a hospital, but says he hasn't the price, and he is averse to accepting charity.

George has a wonderful collection of Indian relics, including hundreds of arrowheads. Redmen camped in the territory in the early part of the eighteenth century. George says there is a "knack" in finding arrowheads.

"Wait until after a shower," he advises, "and then walk out into the fields. You'll see little things glistening in the dirt. These are arrowheads." George has an old gun which his father picked up over a hundred years ago in the old cabin, but his prize relic is the battered hat he wore in the days of '68.

Indian Gold Heart Balm. Rimston, S. D.—The first breach of promise suit in which Indians were both plaintiff and defendant was decided when Miss Agnes Bear was given a verdict of \$3,500 against Smiley Finley by a jury here. As a result all is said in the Finley tapes. "Ough!" said Smiley. "No more white man smoochy oohum for Smiley Finley."



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